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| CONTENTS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | PAGE  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------|
| EDITORIALS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | 73-79 |
| The Hague Conference — The German Election and the Peace Movement — "The Human Harvest" — Methods of Promoting the Cause of Peace — Hodgson Pratt — The National Peace Congress — Further Contributions Needed.                                      |  |       |
| EDITORIAL NOTES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | 79-82 |
| Death of de Staal — Foster at The Hague — Mr. Bryce on Warships — Massachusetts Legislature — The Peace Bureau — King Edward the Peacemaker — The Central American War — Bureau of American Republics — Dartmouth College — Enthusiasm for Humanity. |  |       |
| BREVITIES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | 82-83 |
| GENERAL ARTICLES:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |       |
| The Reign of Violence is O'er. <i>Poem. H. W. Longfellow</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | 83    |
| Peace. <i>Poem. Kenneth Bruce</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  | 83    |
| The Hague Conference and the Limitation of Armaments. <i>Henry Campbell-Bannerman</i>                                                                                                                                                                |  | 83-84 |
| World-Sovereignty Already a Fact. <i>Raymond L. Bridgman</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | 84-85 |
| The Program of the Interparliamentary Union for the Second Hague Conference. <i>Hon. Richard Bartholdt</i>                                                                                                                                           |  | 85-89 |
| Glorification of Justice, Not of War. <i>Hon. C. D. Thompson</i>                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | 87-90 |
| Famines and Militarism. <i>Rev. Edward Cummings</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  | 89-90 |
| The Cost of War                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  | 90-93 |
| CORRESPONDENCE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  | 93    |
| International Arbitration and Peace Lecture Bureau                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  | 93    |

## The Hague Conference.

The situation in regard to the Hague Conference has not materially changed since our last issue. It is expected to meet early in June, as the Netherlands government has announced that it will be ready to welcome the delegates at that time.

Russia has so far hinted at no change in the rather meagre and disappointing program which she published last summer. But it is becoming increasingly certain that the Conference will not be permitted, at the wish of one or two powers, to dodge the question of limitation of armaments. This subject is now, really for the first time, being thoroughly studied and discussed throughout the civilized world. That means much. The public intelligence and conscience have at last taken hold of the problem in a way that will compel early action upon it. There is no doubt that a great majority of the governments, Great Britain, the United States, Italy, France, Spain, and all the smaller powers, wish to see the question squarely tackled, and will throw their weight at The Hague into that scale.

The British government has not weakened in the least in its determination to have the subject considered, as clearly appears from the Prime Minister's article in *The Nation*, the new Liberal weekly, which

we reprint in full on another page, and to which we invite the special attention of our readers.

Mr. Bartholdt's report to the President, on behalf of the Interparliamentary Group in Congress, we also print in full, as this statement sets forth the powerful influence which this great body of statesmen in different countries is exerting to make the Conference at The Hague all that our civilization demands that it should be. It is a large program which the Interparliamentary Union has drawn, speaking of it in general, but it is not larger than the present advanced state of the world and of international relations justifies. The time has fully come when the nations should enter into a solemn obligation to settle their disputes in the great tribunal which they have created; when they should organize for their common interests an international deliberative assembly; when they should agree to deliver themselves from the burdens of competitive arming; when they should neutralize permanently the commerce of the world, and bring international law, in its principles and its mode of administration, into harmony with the advanced judicial systems of the nations. Much of this the Hague Conference will certainly do. That is what it is to meet for. That is what the world will demand of it when it assembles.

## The German Election and the Peace Movement.

It is generally supposed that the result of the recent German election has been a decided setback to the cause of peace in Germany. The Reichstag refused to vote the appropriation asked for by the government to continue the military movements in Southwest Africa. Whereupon it was dissolved, and the Emperor appealed to the country. The result of the election was to give a majority of two hundred and twenty members in favor of the government's policy. Thereupon there was great rejoicing in imperial circles, and the impression given out that the colonial policy hitherto pursued had received the overwhelming sanction of the nation.

A. H. Fried, writing in the *Friedenswarte*, shows that the government had no just ground for jubilation. The support of its policy was not due to the popular vote. The number of votes cast for the government was only 4,962,000, while that against it was 5,895,000, or a majority of 933,000 of the votes actually polled. The Social Democrats, whose